

The Lure of Hampton Shops

May we discuss intimately just what Hampton Shops stands for, and what its relation is to the entire subject of interior arrangement and decoration?

WE have found that most women, and many men, are excellent interior decorators. Much of our finest work has expressed the intuitive artistic sense of our patrons as much as it has resulted from our own technical art and decorative resources.

We are glad to make this acknowledgment. For lacking a widespread interest in, and appreciation of beautiful furniture and its assemblage, it is doubtful if Hampton Shops would ever have attained its present institutional importance.

In fact, it is a matter of historic record that the growth of Hampton Shops parallels closely the aesthetic and cultural development of this country.

From a beginning that dates back to America's emergence from a sorry decadence in furniture design, it was our early good fortune to realize that the basis of adequate decorative expression must be the masterpieces of every period.

These carven treasures of other days were needful not merely for study and reproduction, but to furnish American designers a rich storehouse of inspiration for original pieces of their own.

At the time we speak of, what little good furniture this country possessed was in the hands of collectors or was scattered in individual pieces.

So the principals of our business and our agents invaded the art centers of Europe. The first meritorious interiors were imported almost intact from the Continent.

Today, twenty years later, our commissionaires are still culling the artistically worthwhile of every period and every land, with a result that is best seen in the eleven Galleries of Hampton

Shops, and that is reflected by interiors of rare charm, beauty and distinction in many fine American homes.

As a result, the lure of Hampton Shops is as various as it is beautiful. You are alternately charmed by an ensemble after the age of good Queen Anne, a luxurious interior such as characterized the Restoration, or a rich grouping that is redolent of Renaissance Italy.

In original, or faithful replica, the masterpieces of the furniture makers of all times and all climes are assembled with intelligent understanding against harmonious backgrounds.

This suggests another significant development of Hampton Shops. Our artist-designers are today fashioning as exquisite pieces as ever blossomed in the Jacobean Period or the halcyon days of the Georges.

These reproductions (always so indicated) are made to round out otherwise complete groups of originals, to reconstruct in its entirety an interior for which no originals are available, or to re-create masterpieces whose rarity sets them almost above price.

A third phase of our heightened institutional character came from the early realization that beautiful furniture artistically grouped did not alone constitute an harmonious interior.

To be fully effective, these rare old things and their appurtenances must be wedded to their setting. So whether, as in many cases, an entirely new plan of re-building or re-lighting is necessary, the scope of our service is widened to include it.

This scholarly knowledge, this ripened decorative experience, in combination with our vast equipment, unlimited resources and far-reaching organization, will always be important factors in the enrichment and beautification of American homes, wherever wealth and culture are found in association.

Hampton Shops
18 East 50th Street
facing St. Patrick's Cathedral
New York



Decoration

Antiquities

Furniture